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**NEARLY 30 ALLEGEDLY HIGH-RANKING LATIN KINGS LEADERS AND  
ASSOCIATES CHARGED IN SWEEPING FEDERAL UNDERCOVER PROBE**

CHICAGO – A three-year undercover federal investigation of the Latin Kings culminated today with the arrest of one of its highest-ranking leaders, **Fernando “Ace” King**, allegedly the Supreme Inca, along with charges against nearly 30 other high-ranking members and associates of one of the area’s largest and most violent drug-trafficking street gangs. In June 2003, an active member of the Southside Latin Kings since 1980 began cooperating with federal ATF agents and opened a window into the sprawling gang’s tightly-controlled narcotics distribution empire. After first infiltrating the 53<sup>rd</sup> and Albany section of the Latin Kings, the investigation expanded into other neighborhoods in Chicago, as well as the south and west suburbs, with investigators developing leads, gathering evidence and intelligence and building cases across the Latin Kings’ domain that authorities announced today.

One tentacle of the investigation resulted from contact the cooperating witness (CW1) had with **Jesse Guajardo**, the alleged “Inca” or leader of the Lenzi (Summit) section of the Latin Kings who CW1 purchased cocaine from about 10 times between 2000 and 2003. ATF agents arrested

Guajardo in February of this year. In just 18 months alone in 2003 and 2004, Guajardo purchased approximately 150 kilograms of cocaine – including as much as 50 kilograms at one time for about \$1.8 million – from his alleged supplier, **Jose Estrada**, according to the sweeping federal charges.

The lengthy investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), together with various local, state and federal law enforcement partners, ended today when officers and agents began executing 10 federal search warrants and arresting up to 29 alleged leaders, members and associates of the Almighty Latin King Nation (ALKN) street gang and individuals who supplied them with and purchased narcotics. Altogether, 29 defendants, including King, Estrada and alleged gang leaders **Anthony Compean**, **Oscar Diaz** and **Danny Aguilar** were arrested or are being sought on various federal narcotics or weapons charges contained in 14 separate federal criminal complaints that were filed or unsealed today. In addition, charges were either unsealed today or brought previously against 9 other defendants, bringing to 38 the number who have been charged since this investigation began in 2003.

By late this morning, at least 18 of the 29 new defendants were in custody. Officers and agents today also seized approximately 5.25 kilograms of cocaine, three firearms and three vehicles.

Before today's seizures, more than 10 kilograms of cocaine and 87 firearms were seized or purchased during the investigation, code-named *Operation Broken Crown*. The probe is part of a sustained, coordinated effort by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to dismantle the hierarchy of Chicago's highly-organized, and violent, drug-trafficking street gangs. The investigation employed undercover cooperating witnesses, including onetime gang members, wiretaps, undercover audio and video surveillance of drug transactions, and a steady progression of searches and seizures of evidence.

According to the complaints, the ALKN is a violent, well-organized street gang, controlled through a hierarchical system. The ALKN gang members active within the Southside of Chicago are organized into smaller geographic regions, with each region an umbrella for the gang members who operate within that area. Some ALKN regions are so large as to dictate that the region be subdivided into “chapters” and under each “chapter” are “sections,” which are named by the street intersection in which the section is located.

Currently there are at least seven regions located within Chicago and surrounding suburbs: 1) Northside region (Humboldt Park area); 2) Chi-Town, or, Little Village, region (26th Street area); 3) Crown Town region (51st to 56th Street area); 4) South Suburb or Southwest region (Summit, Chicago Heights, Bridgeview area); 5) Southeast side region (Roseland and Pullman area); 6) Northwest region (Waukegan, Round Lake); and 7) Westside region. Each region is controlled by a regional leader who is the highest-ranking member of the region, and each region also has a regional enforcer and regional treasurer.

“Being the leader of a gang commands attention on the street. It also commands attention from law enforcement. Today, two of the top leaders of the Almighty Latin King Nation in Chicago are a little less “almighty.” They face the possibility of life in federal prison arising out of their involvement with the Latin Kings gang, as do dozens of other Latin Kings from the South Side and South suburbs,” said Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

Andrew L. Traver, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) said: “The arrests of these Latin Kings gang members today is the culmination of more than three years of sophisticated and aggressive investigation that reached

the highest levels of the Latin Kings organization. It was our intent from the beginning to inflict serious, if not lethal damage to the Latin Kings' ability to traffic firearms and narcotics and to commit acts of senseless violence that placed entire communities in jeopardy. Let this serve as a warning to gang members everywhere – being a gang member is a dead end street that only leads to two possible destinations – the penitentiary or the grave. My agents come to work every day intent on finding you and putting you in prison for as long as possible. There is no safe haven, there is no place to hide.”

Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Traver announced the charges together with Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, and Summit Police Chief Charles Wasko. Also assisting in the investigation and/or arrests were the Chicago Police Department, the Cook County Sheriff's Police Narcotics Unit, the federal High Intensity Drug-Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task force, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Secret Service and the police departments of Hickory Hills, Orland Park and Stickney. The investigation, which was conducted under the umbrella of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), is continuing the officials said.

Most of the defendants were charged with firearms offenses and/or possession and distribution of cocaine, or conspiracy to do so. Those in custody were scheduled to have their initial court appearance at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Maria Valdez in U.S. District Court. A list of the cases and defendants is attached.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrew Porter, Nancy Miller and Meghan Morrissey.

If convicted of drug charges, the maximum penalty each defendant faces depends on the amount of cocaine distributed – more than five kilograms carries a mandatory minimum sentence of

10 years in prison and a maximum of life imprisonment without parole and a maximum fine of \$4 million; between 500 and 5 kilograms grams carries a mandatory minimum of 5 years in prison and a maximum of 40 years in prison; and a \$2 million maximum fine; and under 500 grams carries a maximum of 20 years in prison and \$250,0000 fine. The maximum penalty for the firearms offenses is 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Note, however, that the Court would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed.

The public is reminded that a complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

**United States v. King:**

**Fernando King**, also known as “Ace,” dob 4/16/70, of Chicago, allegedly considered the Supreme Inca of the ALKN, was charged with attempted possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine.

**United States v. Compean, (06 CR 0892):**

**Anthony Compean**, aka “Loks” dob 7/3/77, of Cicero; allegedly considered the second-in-charge of the ALKN and a distributor of narcotics to various Southside sections of the gang. He was charged with conspiracy between 2003 and the present to possess with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

**United States v. Diaz, (06 CR 0893):**

**Oscar Diaz**, aka “Cuz,” dob 4/12/74, of Blue Island, allegedly the Southwest regional leader charged with providing a SAIGA Russian assault rifle on November 21, 2006, to a cooperating witness, believing that it would be used in a homicide.

**United States v. Aguilar, et al., (06 CR 0895):**

**Danny Aguilar**, aka “Biggies” and “Fat Danny,” dob 9/9/77, of Justice, allegedly the Regional enforcer of the Southwest region of the Latin Kings; **Jacob Contreras**, dob 4/14/76, of Summit, allegedly the “Inca” of the gang’s Harlem Section; and **Jose Macias**, aka “Bebe,” dob 1/1/83, of Summit, who allegedly assists Aguilar, were charged with conspiracy to distribute multiple kilogram quantities of cocaine from 2001 to the present. The complaint affidavit alleges that in July

of this year Aguilar, Contreras and **Jose Gaya** met with a cooperating witness to discuss the arrest in May of Gaya's cousin, Individual B, for allegedly delivering a kilogram of cocaine. Aguilar allegedly was concerned that Individual B was cooperating with federal authorities and said "She gots to go," adding: "Let the brothers know, if they see that [expletive], they better treat her like she's folks [a rival gang member.]"

**United States v. Gaya, et al., (06 CR 0896):**

**Jose Gaya**, aka "Speedy," dob 4/13/70, an alleged member of the Lenzi (Summit) Section of the Latin Kings, and an alleged drug supplier, **Salvador Rosales**, aka "Chava," dob 12/24/61, both of Summit, were charged with conspiracy to distribute multiple kilogram quantities of cocaine from 2000 to the present.

**United States v. Estrada, et al., (06 CR 0897):**

**Jose Estrada**, aka "Primo," dob 7/22/68, of Los Angeles, who allegedly supplied large quantities of cocaine to the Summit Section of the Latin Kings; **Chris Novak**, dob 4/7/57, of Summit, a cocaine customer; **Zef Raci**, dob 9/27/78, of Justice; **Carl Szajek**, aka "Capone," dob 1/23/70, of Lyons; and **Anthony Zizzo**, aka "Maze," dob 6/30/75, of Summit, each of whom was allegedly involved in the Summit Section's drug-trafficking activities, were charged with conspiracy to distribute multiple kilogram quantities of cocaine from 2000 to the present.

**United States v. Cabral, et al., (06 CR 0891):**

**Antonio Cabral**, dob 7/31/72; **Juan Gonzales**, dob 8/6/80; **David Sanchez**, dob 7/20/79; **Sampson Sanchez**, dob 6/20/72; **Daniel Silva**, dob 12/4/84; and **Jose Vega**, dob 6/14/80, all of Chicago and alleged members or leaders of the 53<sup>rd</sup> and Albany Section of the Latin Kings, were charged with conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine between August 2003 and April 2004. In addition, Sampson Sanchez alone was charged with being a felon-in-possession of a 12 gauge shotgun in April 2004, and Silva alone was charged with distributing more than 50 grams of crack cocaine in December 2003.

**United States v. Jarosz, et al., (06 CR 0894):**

**Augustin Jarosz**, aka "Lil' Tino," dob, 2/18/79, of Chicago, an alleged member of the Crown Town Section of the Latin Kings and formerly the "Cacique," or second-in-command of the Midway Section, and **Daniel Montoya**, dob 6-6-82, of Chicago, an alleged member of the Midway Section, were charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine between January 2004 and the present.

**United States v. Issa, et al., (06 CR 0887):**

**Nedal Issa**, aka "Lucky," dob 1/11/77, the alleged "Inca," or leader, of the Cicero Section of the Latin Kings, and his half-brother, **Mohammad Issa**, dob 12/28/77, both of Tinley Park, an

alleged Cicero Section member, were charged with distribution of approximately 133 grams of cocaine on March 8, 2006.

**United States v. Calderon, et al., (06 CR 0889):**

**Carlos Calderon**, aka “Spy,” dob 9/11/69, of Chicago, an alleged member of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Spaulding Section of the Latin Kings and supplier of cocaine to other gang members, and his associate, **Roberto C. Rodriguez**, aka “Pepas,” dob 7/7/65, of Chicago, were charged with conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine between June and August 2006.

**United States v. Alcala, (06 CR 0888):**

**Oscar Alcala**, aka “Re Run,” dob 11/26/77, of Berwyn, allegedly the “Cacique,” or second-in-command, of the 57<sup>th</sup> and Cicero Section of the Latin Kings and previously the section’s enforcer, was charged with distributing approximately 126 grams of cocaine on June 22, 2006.

**United States v. Perez, (06 CR 0890):**

**Raymond Perez**, aka “Slimmy” and “Slim,” dob 3/5/80, of Chicago, allegedly the “Council Chairman” of the 57<sup>th</sup> and Cicero Section of the Latin Kings, was charged with possessing with intent to distribute approximately 2.5 kilograms of cocaine on November 1, 2006. The cocaine was seized by agents executing a search warrant at 7744 Lotus Ave., Burbank, on Nov. 3, 2006.

**United States v. Juarez:**

**Miguel Juarez**, aka “DK,” dob 5/1/82, of Cicero, an alleged member of the 57<sup>th</sup> and Cicero section of the Latin Kings, was charged with being a felon-in-possession of a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on October 15, 2005.

**United States v. Montoya:**

**David Montoya**, aka “DK,” an alleged member of the Midway Section of the Latin Kings, was charged with being a felon-in-possession of a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol with an obliterated serial number on September 8, 2004.

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